#### COLE SCHOTZ P.C.

Michael D. Sirota, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 014321986) Warren A. Usatine, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 025881995) Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 (201) 489-3000 msirota@coleschotz.com wusatine@coleschotz.com

#### KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP

Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) Christine A. Okike, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 446-4800
jsussberg@kirkland.com
christine.okike@kirkland.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

## HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Richard S. Kanowitz, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 047911992) Kenric D. Kattner, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor New York, New York 10112 (212) 659-7300 richard.kanowitz@haynesboone.com kenric.kattner@haynesboone.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re:

BLOCKFI INC., et al.,

Debtors.<sup>1</sup>

Chapter 11

Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

(Jointly Administered)

Hearing Date: March 23, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m. ET Response Deadline: March 16, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m. ET Oral Argument Waived Unless Response Timely Filed

# NOTICE OF DEBTORS' FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 1363, 1649 AND 3217

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these Chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 201 Montgomery Street, Suite 263, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

YOU SHOULD LOCATE YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER OR CLAIM NUMBER AND YOUR CLAIM(S) ON THE SCHEDULES ATTACHED HERETO. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT YOUR CLAIM(S) MAY BE DISALLOWED, EXPUNGED, RECLASSIFIED, REDUCED, OR OTHERWISE AFFECTED AS A RESULT OF THE OBJECTION. THEREFORE, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE AND THE ACCOMPANYING OBJECTION VERY CAREFULLY AND DISCUSS THEM WITH YOUR ATTORNEY, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ATTORNEY, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT ONE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WISH TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT DEBTORS' COUNSEL:

JORDAN E. CHAVEZ, ESQ. (214) 651-5453 JORDAN.CHAVEZ@HAYNESBOONE.COM THOMAS J. ZAVALA, ESQ. (214) 651-5046 TOM.ZAVALA@HAYNESBOONE.COM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (ET), or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), by and through their undersigned counsel, shall move for disallowance of certain claims described herein (the "Objection") before the Honorable Michael B. Kaplan, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge, in Courtroom #8 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the "Bankruptcy Court"), 402 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608, or such other physical or virtual location as may be determined by the Court, for entry of an order, substantially in the form submitted herewith.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the Objection sets forth the relevant factual bases upon which the relief requested should be granted. The Debtors shall rely upon the accompanying *Certification of Mark A. Renzi* attached to the Objection as <u>Exhibit A.</u> A Proposed Order granting the relief requested in the Objection is also submitted herewith.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that responses, if any, to the relief requested in the Objection shall: (i) be in writing, (ii) state with particularity the basis of the objection; (iii) conform with the Bankruptcy Court's *Order Granting Debtors' Motion to Establish Certain Notice, Case Management, and Administrative Procedures* [Docket No. 54] (the "Case Management Order"), and (iv) be filed with the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court

electronically by attorneys who regularly practice before the Bankruptcy Court in accordance with the General Order Regarding Electronic Means for Filing Signing, and Verification of Documents dated March 27, 2002 (the "General Order") and the Commentary Supplementing Administrative Procedures dated as of March 2004 (the "Supplemental Commentary") (the General Order, the Supplemental Commentary and the User's Manual for the Electronic Case Filing System can be found at www.njb.uscourts.gov, the official website for the Bankruptcy Court) and, by all other parties-in-interest, on CD-ROM in Portable Document Format (PDF), and shall be served in accordance with the General Order and the Supplemental Commentary, so as to be received no later than seven (7) days before the hearing date set forth above.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that unless responses are timely filed and served, the Objection shall be decided on the papers in accordance with D.N.J. LBR 9013-3(d), and the relief requested may be granted without further notice or hearing.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

Dated: March 2, 2023 /s/ Michael D. Sirota

#### COLE SCHOTZ P.C.

Michael D. Sirota, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 014321986) Warren A. Usatine, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 025881995) Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 (201) 489-3000 msirota@coleschotz.com wusatine@coleschotz.com

## KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP

Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) Christine A. Okike, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 446-4800
jsussberg@kirkland.com
christine.okike@kirkland.com

#### HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Richard S. Kanowitz, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 047911992) Kenric D. Kattner, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor New York, New York 10112 (212) 659-7300 richard.kanowitz@haynesboone.com kenric.kattner@haynesboone.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

## **COLE SCHOTZ P.C.**

Michael D. Sirota, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 014321986) Warren A. Usatine, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 025881995) Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 (201) 489-3000 msirota@coleschotz.com wusatine@coleschotz.com

#### KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP

Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) Christine A. Okike, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice* g) 601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 446-4800
jsussberg@kirkland.com
christine.okike@kirkland.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

## HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Richard S. Kanowitz, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 047911992) Kenric D. Kattner, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor New York, New York 10112 (212) 659-7300 richard.kanowitz@haynesboone.com kenric.kattner@haynesboone.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re:

BLOCKFI INC., et al.,

Debtors. 1

Chapter 11

Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

(Jointly Administered)

# DEBTORS' FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 1363, 1649 AND 3217

TO: THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL B. KAPLAN UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

BlockFi Inc. and its debtor affiliates (collectively, "BlockFi" or the "Debtors"), as debtors and debtors-in-possession in the above-referenced Chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases"), hereby file this *Debtors' First Omnibus Objection to Claims 1363, 1649 and 3217* (the "Objection") for entry of an Order substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B** (the

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 201 Montgomery Street, Suite 263, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

"Proposed Order"), pursuant to sections 105(a) and 502 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Rules 3007-1, 3007-2 and 9013-1 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the "Local Rules"). In support of the Objection, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

# **Jurisdiction and Venue**

- 1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Standing Order of Reference to the Bankruptcy Court Under Title 11*, entered September 18, 2012 (Simandle, C.J.). The Debtors confirm their consent to the Court entering a final order in connection with this Objection to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.
  - 2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 3. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a) and 502(a) of Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 3007 and Local Rules 3007-1, 3007-2 and 9013-1.

# **Background**

# A. The Chapter 11 Cases

4. On November 28, 2022 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), each Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. A detailed description of the Debtors, their businesses, and the facts and circumstances supporting the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases are set forth in greater detail in the *Declaration of Mark Renzi in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Petitions* 

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Mair Document Page 7 of 29

and First Day Motions (the "First Day Declaration"), which was filed on the Petition Date and is incorporated by reference herein.

- 5. The Debtors are operating their businesses and managing their property as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. On November 29, 2022, this Court entered an order [Docket No. 42] authorizing the procedural consolidation and joint administration of these Chapter 11 Cases pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b). These Chapter 11 Cases are being jointly administered under lead Case No. 22-19361.
- 6. On December 21, 2022, the United States Trustee for the District of New Jersey (the "<u>U.S. Trustee</u>") appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "<u>Committee</u>") [Docket No. 130]. No request for the appointment of a trustee or examiner has been made in these Chapter 11 Cases.

## **B.** The Claims Process

7. On January 30, 2023, the Court entered the *Order (I) Setting Bar Dates for Submitting Proofs of Claim, (II) Approving Procedures for Submitting Proofs of Claim, (III) Approving Notice Thereof, and (IV) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 440] (the "Bar Date Order") establishing certain dates and deadlines for filing proofs of Claims (collectively, the "Proofs of Claim") in these Chapter 11 cases. The Bar Date Order established (a) March 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) as the last date and time for certain creditors other than governmental units to file Proofs of Claim based on prepetition Claims against any Debtor (the "Claims Bar Date"), (b) May 30, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) as the last date and time for each governmental unit to file Proofs of Claim against any Debtor (the "Governmental Bar Date"), (c) the later of (i) the General Claims Bar Date and (ii) any date this Court may fix in the applicable order authorizing rejection of any executory contract or unexpired lease of the

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 8 of 29

Debtors and, if no such date is provided, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of entry of such order, as the deadline by which claimants asserting claims resulting from the Debtors' rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease must file Proofs of Claim for damages arising from such rejection, and (d) at least thirty (30) calendar days from the date on which the Debtors provided notice of an amendment or supplement to the Schedules (as defined herein), as the deadline for when claimants holding Claims that the filing, amendment, or supplement affected must file Proofs of Claim with respect to such claim.

- 8. On January 12, 2023, the Debtors filed: the Schedules of Assets and Liabilities of: BlockFi Inc. (Case No. 22-19361) [Docket No. 242] (as amended by Docket No. 460), BlockFi International Ltd. (Case No. 22-19368) [Docket No. 247] (as amended by Docket No. 462); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (Case No. 22-19370) [Docket No. 249], BlockFi Lending LLC (Case No. 22-19365) [Docket No. 251] (as amended by Docket No. 461), BlockFi Lending II LLC (Case No. 22-19374) [Docket No. 253], BlockFi Services Inc. (Case No. 22-19371) [Docket No. 255], BlockFi Trading LLC (Case No. 22-19363) [Docket No. 257], BlockFi Ventures LLC (Case No. 22-19367) [Docket No. 259], and BlockFi Wallet LLC (Case No. 22-19366) [Docket No. 261] (collectively and as may be amended from time to time, the "Schedules") pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1007.
- 9. On February 2, 2023 and February 3, 2023, the Debtors caused a bar date notice to be published in The New York Times and The Royal Gazette, respectively, as set forth in the affidavits filed at Docket Nos. 471 and 472. With the assistance of Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC (the "Claims and Noticing Agent"), the Debtors also served the Bar Date Order and a Proof of Claim Form by email and/or first-class mail in accordance with the procedures

set forth in the Order Granting Debtors' Motion to Establish Certain Notice, Case Management and Administrative Procedures [Docket No. 54] (the "Case Management Order") on:

- a. the Master Service List (as defined in the Case Management Order);
- b. all known creditors and other known holders of potential Claims against the Debtors as of the date of entry of the Bar Date Order, including all persons or entities listed in the Schedules for which the Debtors have mailing addresses or email addresses;
- c. all entities that have filed Proofs of Claim in these Chapter 11 Cases as of the date of entry of the Bar Date Order;
- d. all known non-Debtor equity and interest holders of the Debtors as of the date of entry of the Bar Date Order;
- e. all entities who are party to executory contracts and unexpired leases with the Debtors;
- f. all entities who are party to litigation with the Debtors;
- g. all current and former employees (to the extent that contact information for former employees is available in the Debtors' records);
- h. all regulatory authorities that regulate the Debtors' businesses, including consumer protection, environmental, and permitting authorities; and
- i. all taxing authorities for the jurisdictions in which the Debtors maintain or conduct business.

The Bar Date Notice and Proof of Claim Forms were also published on the Debtors' case website maintained by the Claims and Noticing Agent at https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/blockfi.

10. As of the date hereof, over 12,000 Proofs of Claim have been filed against the Debtors. The Debtors, together with their advisors, have commenced the Claims reconciliation process, reviewed the claims listed on <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Proposed Order, and concluded that each such claim should be disallowed for the reasons set forth below.

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 10 of 29

# **Objection**

- 11. Section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in pertinent part, that "[a] claim or interest, proof of which is filed under section 501 of this title, is deemed allowed, unless a party in interest . . . objects." 11 U.S.C. § 502(a).
- 12. The burden of proof for claims brought in the bankruptcy court under section 502(a) rests on different parties at different times. In re Biolitec, Inc., Case No. CIV. 13-5864 FSH, 2013 WL 6795400, at \*3 (D.N.J. Dec. 16, 2013) (citing In re Allegheny Int'l Inc., 954 F.2d 167, 173 (3d Cir. 1992)). First, the claimant must allege facts sufficient to support his claim. *Id.* If the allegations in the filed claim meet this standard, "it is 'prima facie' valid." Id. "In other words, a claim that alleges facts sufficient to support a legal liability to the claimant satisfies the claimant's initial obligation." Id. A properly filed proof of claim is generally considered "prima facie evidence of the validity and the amount of the claim." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3001(f). The burden then shifts to the objector to produce evidence sufficient to negate the prima facie validity of the filed claim. Allegheny, 954 F.2d at 173. In practice, the objector must produce evidence which, if believed, would refute at least one of the allegations that is essential to the claim's legal sufficiency. Id. at 173–74. If the objector meets this burden, the burden reverts to the claimant to prove the validity of the claim by a preponderance of the evidence, and the burden of persuasion is always on the claimant. Id. Section 502(b)(1) "is most naturally understood to provide that, with limited exceptions, any defense to a claim that is available outside of the bankruptcy context is also available in bankruptcy." Travelers Cas. & Sur. Co. of Am. v. Pac. Gas & Elec. Co., 549 U.S. 443, 450 (2007).
- 13. Notwithstanding the shifting burden of proof, a claimant's failure to allege facts and to provide sufficient support for a claim may deprive the claim of *prima facie* validity in the

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Mair Document Page 11 of 29

first place. See, e.g., In re Jorczak, 314 B.R. 474, 481-82 (Bankr. D. Conn. 2004) (discussing the evidentiary requirements and burden of proof with respect to the allowance of claims). Although the lack of prima facie validity is not necessarily a ground for disallowance, "in certain circumstances claims can be disallowed for failure to support the claim with sufficient evidence, even if this is not a specifically enumerated reason for disallowance under 11 U.S.C. § 502(b) . . . ." In re Mallinckrodt Plc, Case No. 20-12522-JTD, 2022 WL 3545583, at \*4 (D. Del. Aug. 18, 2022); see also In re O'Brien, 440 B.R. 654, 667 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2010) (finding that lack of prima facie evidence pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f) and failure of claimant to provide additional evidence warranted disallowance of claim).

- 14. Additionally, the Debtors are authorized to file this omnibus objection seeking to disallow claims pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3007(d), which states, in pertinent part, that "objections to more than one claim may be joined in an omnibus objection if all the claims were filed by the same entity . . . ." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007(d). Under the Bankruptcy Code, the term "entity" includes a person. 11 U.S.C. § 101(15). Further, pursuant to Local Rule 3007-2, "[a]n omnibus objection to claims may be filed to reduce the amount of a claim or to modify a claim's priority status." D.N.J. LBR 3007-2.
- 15. The Debtors have determined that the Proofs of Claim identified on Schedule 1 to the Proposed Order and discussed below (collectively, the "Disputed Claims") were filed by the same claimant (the "Claimant") and seek recovery of amounts that are inconsistent with the Debtors' books and records. Specifically, the Debtors have no record of owing any amounts to the Claimant, as reflected in the Schedules. On February 22, 2023, the Debtors contacted the Claimant at the email address listed on the Proof of Claim forms to request additional support for the Disputed Claims, but the Debtors have not received a response. On February 27, 2023, the Debtors

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Mair Document Page 12 of 29

called the Claimant at the phone number listed on the Proof of Claim forms, but he did not answer and the Debtors were unable to leave a message because the Claimant's voicemail box was full. On February 28, 2023, the Debtors attempted to contact the Claimant a third time but were unable to reach him. The Claimant emailed additional documents to the Debtors on March 2, 2023, but the documents received by the Debtors did not relate to or identify BlockFi in any way. The Debtors attempted to resolve the Objection with the Claimant consensually but were unable to do so. Therefore, as of the filing of this Objection, the Claimant has failed to allege facts sufficient to support the *prima facie* validity of the Disputed Claims. Accordingly, to prevent improper recovery against the estates, the Debtors request that the Disputed Claims be disallowed in their entirety, as set forth on Schedule 1.

16. Schedule 1 identifies for each claimant: (a) the Proof of Claim number; (b) the date the Proof of Claim was filed; (c) the entity against which the claim was asserted; (d) the amount and classification of the Disputed Claim as filed in the Proof of Claim; (e) the Debtors' proposed allowed amount and classification of the Disputed Claim; and (f) the basis for objection.

## Responses to this Objection

- 17. Parties Required to File a Response. Any party who disagrees with this Omnibus Objection is required to file a Response in accordance with the procedures set forth herein. If a claimant whose Claim is subject to an Objection does not file and serve a Response in compliance with the procedures below, the Court may grant the Objection with respect to such Claim without further notice to the claimants.
  - 18. Response Contents. Each Response must contain the following (at a minimum):
    - a. a caption stating the name of the Court, the name of the Debtors, the case number, the title of the Objection to which the Response is directed, and, if applicable, the Proof of Claim number(s) related thereto from the Claims Register;

- b. a concise statement setting forth the reasons why the Court should not grant the Objection with respect to such Claim, including the factual and legal bases upon which the claimant will rely in opposing the Objection;
- c. a copy of any other documentation or other evidence of the Claim, to the extent not already included with the Proof of Claim (if applicable), upon which the claimant will rely in opposing the Objection; *provided, however*, that the claimant need not disclose confidential, proprietary, or otherwise protected information in the Response; *provided further, however*, that the claimant shall disclose to the Debtors all information and provide copies of all documents that the claimant believes to be confidential, proprietary, or otherwise protected and upon which the claimant intends to rely in support of its Claim, subject to appropriate confidentiality constraints; and
- d. the following contact information for the responding party:
  - i. the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the responding claimant or the claimant's attorney or designated representative to whom the attorneys for the Debtors should serve a reply to the Response, if any; or
  - ii. the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the party with authority to reconcile, settle, or otherwise resolve the Objection on the claimant's behalf.
- 19. <u>Filing and Serving the Response</u>. A Response will be deemed timely only if it is filed with the Court and served on all of the following parties (the "<u>Notice Parties</u>") so as to be actually received by or before 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on the day that is seven (7) calendar days before the Hearing on the Objection(s) and Response(s) (the "<u>Response</u> <u>Deadline</u>"), unless the Debtors consent to an extension in writing:
  - a. <u>Debtors' Counsel</u>. (1) Haynes and Boone, LLP, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor New York, New York 10112, Attn: Richard S. Kanowitz, Esq. (richard.kanowitz@haynesboone.com); Jordan E. Chavez (Jordan.chavez@haynesboone.com); and Tom Zavala (tom.zavala@haynesboone.com); and (2) Cole Schotz, P.C., Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601, Attn: Michael D. Sirota, Esq. (msirota@coleschotz.com) and Felice Yudkin, Esq. (fyudkin@coleschotz.com);
  - b. <u>Committee Counsel</u>. (1) Brown Rudnick LLP, Seven Times Square, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Robert J. Stark, Esq. (rstark@brownrudnick.com) and Kenneth Aulet, Esq. (kaulet@brownrudnick.com); and (2) Genova

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 14 of 29

- Burns LLC, 110 Allen Rd., Suite 304, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, Attn: Daniel M. Stolz (DStolz@genovaburns.com), Esq. and Donald W. Clarke, Esq. (DClarke@genovaburns.com); and
- c. <u>U.S. Trustee</u>. Office of the United States Trustee for the District of New Jersey, One Newark Center, Suite 2100, Newark, NJ 07102, Attn: Jeffrey Sponder, Esq. (Jeffrey.M.Sponder@usdoj.gov) and Lauren Bielskie, Esq. (Lauren.Bielskie@usdoj.gov).
- 20. Hearing on Objection. A hearing (the "Hearing") on the Objection will be held on March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., prevailing Eastern Time, before the Honorable Michael B. Kaplan, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of New Jersey. The Hearing will be conducted virtually using Zoom for Government. To the extent parties wish to present their argument at the hearing, a request for "Presenter Status" must be submitted to the Court at least one (1) business day prior to the Hearing by emailing Chambers (chambers of mbk@njb.uscourts.gov) and providing the following information: (a) name of Presenter, (b) email address of Presenter, (c) Presenter's affiliation with the case and/or (d) what party or interest the Presenter represents. If the request is approved, the Presenter will receive appropriate Zoom credentials and further instructions via email. The Hearing may be adjourned to a subsequent date in these cases in the Court's or Debtors' discretion. Any party in interest who disagrees with the Objection and has filed a Response that remains unresolved prior to the Hearing must attend the Hearing. If such Claims cannot be resolved and a hearing is determined to be necessary, the Debtors shall file with the Court and serve on the affected claimants a notice of the hearing to the extent the Debtors did not file a notice of hearing previously.
- 21. <u>Discovery</u>. If the Debtors determine that discovery is necessary in advance of the Hearing, the Debtors will serve notice on the affected claimant and its counsel of record that the scheduled hearing will be treated as a status conference during which the parties will request that the Court issue a scheduling order to facilitate dismissal or resolution of the litigation. Such notice

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Mair Document Page 15 of 29

may be incorporated into the initial agenda letter for the hearing or may be provided in a separate notice.

- 22. <u>Failure to Respond</u>. A Response that is not filed with the Court and served on the Notice Parties or before the Response Deadline or such other date as agreed with the Debtors, in accordance with the procedures set forth herein, may not be considered at the Hearing before the Court. Absent reaching an agreement with the Debtors resolving the Objection to a Claim, failure to both file and serve a Response timely as set forth herein may result in the Court granting the Objection without further notice or hearing. Affected creditors will be served with such order once it has been entered.
- 23. <u>Reply to a Response</u>. The Debtors shall be permitted to file a reply or omnibus reply to any Response or multiple responses, as applicable, no later than two (2) business days before the hearing with respect to the relevant Objection.

# **Reservation of Rights**

24. Nothing contained in this Objection or any actions taken pursuant to any order granting the relief requested by this Objection is intended or should be construed as: (a) an admission as to the validity of any particular claim against the Debtors, (b) a waiver of the Debtors' rights to dispute any particular claim on any grounds, (c) a promise or requirement to pay any particular claim, (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Objection or any order granting the relief requested by this Objection, (e) a request or authorization to assume any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, (f) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors' rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (g) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) satisfied pursuant to the Objection are valid, and the Debtors expressly

reserve their rights to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens. If the Court grants the relief sought herein, any transfer made pursuant to the Court's order is not intended and should not be construed as an admission as to the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors' rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

# **Separate Contested Matters**

25. Each of the Disputed Claims constitutes a separate contested matter pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9014. The Debtors respectfully request that any order entered by the Court with respect to an objection asserted in this Objection be deemed a separate order with respect to each of the Disputed Claims.

## Waiver of Memorandum of Law

26. The Debtors respectfully request that the Court waive the requirement to file a separate memorandum of law pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(a)(3) because the legal basis upon which the Debtors rely is set forth herein and the Objection does not raise any novel issues of law.

#### No Prior Request

27. No prior request for the relief sought in this Objection has been made to this Court or any other court.

# **Notice**

28. The Debtors will provide notice of this Objection to the following parties and/or their respective counsel, as applicable: (a) the office of the United States Trustee for the District of New Jersey, One Newark Center, Suite 2100, Newark, NJ 07102; (b) the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey; (c) the Internal Revenue Service; (d) the attorneys general in the states where the Debtors conduct their business operations; (e) counsel for the Committee; (f) any party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002; and (g) the

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 17 of 29

claimant(s) listed on <u>Schedule 1</u> attached to the Proposed Order (collectively, the "<u>Notice Parties</u>").

The Debtors submit that, in view of the facts and circumstances, such notice is sufficient and no other or further notice need be provided.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

**WHEREFORE**, the Debtors respectfully request entry of the Proposed Order granting the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: March 2, 2023

/s/ Michael D. Sirota

#### COLE SCHOTZ P.C.

Michael D. Sirota, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 014321986) Warren A. Usatine, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 025881995) Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 (201) 489-3000 msirota@coleschotz.com wusatine@coleschotz.com

## KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP

Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) Christine A. Okike, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 446-4800
jsussberg@kirkland.com
christine.okike@kirkland.com

#### HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Richard S. Kanowitz, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 047911992) Kenric D. Kattner, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor New York, New York 10112 (212) 659-7300 richard.kanowitz@haynesboone.com kenric.kattner@haynesboone.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# **EXHIBIT A**

Certification of Mark A. Renzi

## COLE SCHOTZ P.C.

Michael D. Sirota, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 014321986) Warren A. Usatine, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 025881995) Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 (201) 489-3000 msirota@coleschotz.com wusatine@coleschotz.com

## KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP

Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) Christine A. Okike, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 446-4800
jsussberg@kirkland.com
christine.okike@kirkland.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

## HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Richard S. Kanowitz, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 047911992) Kenric D. Kattner, Esq. (admitted *pro hac vice*) 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor New York, New York 10112 (212) 659-7300 richard.kanowitz@haynesboone.com kenric.kattner@haynesboone.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In re:		Chapter 11
BLOCKFI INC., et al.,	Debtors. <sup>1</sup>	Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)
		(Jointly Administered)

CERTIFICATION OF MARK A. RENZI IN SUPPORT OF DEBTORS' FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 1363, 1649 AND 3217

The Debtors in these Chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 201 Montgomery Street, Suite 263, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

- I, Mark A. Renzi, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare:
- 1. My name is Mark Renzi. I am over the age of 21. I am a Managing Director and the Head of the Corporate Finance Financial Institutions Group for Berkeley Research Group, LLC ("BRG"). I am also the Chief Restructuring Officer for the debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, "BlockFi" or the "Debtors") in the above-captioned Chapter 11 Cases. Accordingly, I am in all respects competent to make this certification (the "Certification").
- 2. I submit this Certification in support of the *Debtors' First Omnibus Objection to Claims 1363, 1649 and 3217* (the "Objection") filed contemporaneously herewith.
- 3. Except as otherwise indicated herein, the facts set forth in this Certification are based upon my personal knowledge, my review of relevant documents, information provided to me by the professionals in this case and/or employees working under my supervision, or my opinion based upon my experience, knowledge, and information concerning the Debtors' operations. I am authorized to submit this Certification on the Debtors' behalf. If called upon to testify, I would testify competently to the facts set forth in this Certification.
- 4. I have read and reviewed the Objection, including the information regarding the Disputed Claims<sup>2</sup> set forth on <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Proposed Order attached thereto, and I am familiar with the information contained in those documents. In consultation with the Debtors' advisors, I have concluded that the Disputed Claims seek recovery of amounts that are inconsistent with the Debtors' books and records. Specifically, the Debtors have no record of owing any amounts to the Claimant, as reflected in the Schedules.

2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Certification shall have the meanings set forth in the Objection.

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 22 of 29

5. Accordingly, to prevent improper recovery against the estates, I believe that the Proposed Order should be granted and the Disputed Claims should be disallowed in their entirety as set forth on Schedule 1.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 23 of 29

I hereby declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 2, 2023 By: /s/ Mark A. Renzi

Mark A. Renzi CRO to the Debtors

# EXHIBIT B

**Proposed Order** 

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

# Caption in Compliance with D.N.J. LBR 9004-1(b) COLE SCHOTZ P.C.

Michael D. Sirota, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 014321986)

Warren A. Usatine, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 025881995)

Court Plaza North, 25 Main Street

Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

(201) 489-3000

msirota@coleschotz.com

wusatine@coleschotz.com

# KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

**KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP** Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. (admitted *pro hac vice*)

Christine A. Okike, P.C. (admitted pro hac vice)

601 Lexington Avenue

New York, New York 10022

(212) 446-4800

jsussberg@kirkland.com

christine.okike@kirkland.com

#### HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Richard S. Kanowitz, Esq. (NJ Bar No. 047911992)

Kenric D. Kattner, Esq. (admitted pro hac vice)

30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor

New York, New York 10112

(212) 659-7300

richard.kanowitz@haynesboone.com

kenric.kattner@haynesboone.com

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

In re:

BLOCKFI INC., et al.,

Debtors.<sup>1</sup>

Chapter 11

Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

(Jointly Administered)

**Hearing Date and Time:** 

March 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (ET)

# ORDER GRANTING DEBTORS' FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 1363, 1649 AND 3217

The relief set forth on the following pages, numbered two (2) through four (4) is

## ORDERED.

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these Chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 201 Montgomery Street, Suite 263, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 26 of 29

(Page 2)

Debtors: BLOCKFI INC., *et al.* Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER GRANTING DEBTORS' FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO

CLAIMS 1363, 1649 AND 3217

Upon consideration of the Debtors' First Omnibus Objection to Claims 1363, 1649 and 3217 (the "Objection")<sup>1</sup>: and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Objection and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157 and Standing Order 12-1 (Simandle, C.J.), Standing Order of Reference to the Bankruptcy Court Under Title 11, dated September 18, 2012; and consideration of the Objection and the relief requested therein being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and venue being proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and due and proper notice of the Objection having been provided; and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and it appearing that no other or further notice of the Objection need be provided; and all responses, if any, to the Objection having been withdrawn, resolved, or overruled; and the Court having found and determined that the relief sought in the Objection is in the best interests of the Debtors, their respective estates and creditors, and all parties-in-interest; and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Objection establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon the Certification of Mark A. Renzi attached to the Objection, the record herein, and all of the proceedings had before the Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Objection is SUSTAINED as set forth herein.
- 2. The Disputed Claims listed on <u>Schedule 1</u> attached hereto are hereby deemed disallowed in their entirety.

<sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Objection.

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 27 of 29

(Page 3)

Debtors: BLOCKFI INC., *et al.* Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER GRANTING DEBTORS' FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO

CLAIMS 1363, 1649 AND 3217

3. Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC (the "<u>Claims and Noticing Agent</u>") is hereby authorized and directed to mark each Disputed Claim as disallowed on the claims register maintained for the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases and expunge each Disputed Claim from the claims register.

- 4. The Debtors are authorized to take all steps necessary or appropriate to carry out the relief granted in this Order.
- 5. The terms, conditions, and provisions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 6. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Objection, this Order, or any findings announced at the hearing, nothing in the Objection, this Order, or announced at the hearing constitutes a finding under the federal securities laws as to whether crypto tokens or transactions involving crypto tokens are securities, and the right of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission to challenge transactions involving crypto tokens on any basis are expressly reserved.
- 7. Nothing contained in this Objection or any actions taken pursuant to any order granting the relief requested by this Objection is intended or should be construed as: (a) an admission as to the validity of any particular claim against the Debtors, (b) a waiver of the Debtors' rights to dispute any particular claim on any grounds, (c) a promise or requirement to pay any particular claim, (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Objection or any order granting the relief requested by this Objection, (e) a request or authorization to assume any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, (f) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors' rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (g) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common

Case 22-19361-MBK Doc 573 Filed 03/02/23 Entered 03/02/23 18:40:55 Desc Main Document Page 28 of 29

(Page 4)

Debtors: BLOCKFI INC., et al. Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER GRANTING DEBTORS' FIRST OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO

CLAIMS 1363, 1649 AND 3217

law, statutory, or otherwise) satisfied pursuant to the Objection are valid, and the Debtors expressly reserve their rights to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens. If the Court grants the relief sought herein, any transfer made pursuant to the Court's Order is not intended and should not be construed as an admission as to the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors' rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

- 8. The objection to each Disputed Claim addressed in the Objection and as set forth on **Schedule 1** attached hereto constitutes a separate contested matter as contemplated by Bankruptcy Rule 9014. This Order shall be deemed a separate order with respect to each claim that is the subject of the Objection and this Order. Any stay of this Order pending appeal by any claimants whose claims are subject to this Order shall only apply to the contested matter that involves such claimant and shall not stay the applicability and/or finality of this Order with respect to any other contested matters addressed in the Objection and this Order.
- 9. The requirement set forth in Local Rule 9013-1(a)(3) that any motion be accompanied by a memorandum of law is hereby deemed satisfied by the contents of the Objection or is otherwise waived.
- 10. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of this Order.

# Schedule 1

# **Disputed Claims**

Debtor	Claim Number	Date Filed	Asserted Claim Amount	Basis for Objection	Proposed Claim Amounts
All	1363	1/13/23	\$100 million secured claim	Failure to allege facts sufficient to support <i>prima facie</i> validity of claims and failure to provide sufficient documentation to support <i>prima facie</i> validity of claim	\$0.00
BlockFi Inc.	1649	1/13/23	\$2.2 trillion secured claim	Failure to allege facts sufficient to support <i>prima facie</i> validity of claims and failure to provide sufficient documentation to support <i>prima facie</i> validity of claim	\$0.00
BlockFi Inc.	3217	2/14/2023	\$2.2 trillion secured claim	Failure to allege facts sufficient to support <i>prima facie</i> validity of claims and failure to provide sufficient documentation to support <i>prima facie</i> validity of claim	\$0.00